

28th Meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group (RAG)

Virtual event

Opening Remarks

29 March 2021

Mario Maniewicz
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Elected officials,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning, afternoon or evening to everyone.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 28th meeting of the Radiocommunication Advisory Group.

I would like to begin by thanking you for your support during this last year. Particularly, I thank the leadership of the ITU-R Study Groups and Working Parties for their hard work and resilience in view of the especially challenging circumstances.

I also thank all ITU-R Members for their flexibility in accepting sometimes quite odd times for ITU-R meetings, which might happen on very early hours for some and very late hours for others, during lunch time, or even during prayer time on Fridays.

Dear colleagues,

Recently the ITU crossed the one-year mark of working remotely. During this time:

- The 2020 Edition of the Radio Regulations was published, and it is available for free download in the ITU website
- Other ITU-R publications, databases and systems were timely updated, and
- The processing of terrestrial and satellite network filings continued apace

Moreover:

- We have observed a significant growth in the number of delegates attending virtual meetings of ITU-R study groups and working parties.
- The plenary sessions of the World Radiocommunications Seminar, for example, attracted more than 2000 participants – with both ITU members and non-members participating.

In addition, the BR has implemented the follow-up actions requested by the RAG at its meeting in 2020:

- The compendium of WRC plenary **decisions** not reflected in the Radio Regulations are now available in the RRB, CPM and Study Groups webpages
- The Bureau has categorized all the W(A)RC Resolutions that are in force after the finalization of WRC-19
- Each Working Party has identified one or two Vice-Chairmen, and
- We reconvened meetings of the CVC – the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Study Groups – to support and facilitate more efficient conduct of the work of the ITU-R, particularly in the virtual format that is required during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Dear friends,

As you can see, despite all the challenges, our collaborative work has enabled us to go a long way. And we are happy to go even further.

We have all witnessed during the last year the incredible digital transformation that companies and Administrations have gone through. And in the ITU it could not be different. What could be made digital was made digital. Moreover, we in the BR, have been moving away from legacy systems to more modern and efficient ones. In that sense, we observe the contributions to this meeting that point to the need to continue in this direction. Further improving BR information systems and making space databases more user-friendly.

Although the digital world brings several advantages, it also brings a few challenges. We have been continuously learning and adapting to this new environment. Striving to make virtual meetings as productive as possible and finding ways of enabling more offline discussions and progress between meetings. This RAG will consider contributions on ITU-R working methods, approval of Liaison Statements, and the quality of our meeting platforms.

Finally, the agenda of the RAG includes contributions addressing the inter-sectoral coordination, the draft four-year rolling Operational Plan, and the work of the RAG Gender Correspondence Group as was mentioned by our Secretary General.

I can only echo his words with regards to the promotion of gender equality, equity and parity in the ITU Radiocommunications Sector. I ensure you that we are working to put into action the Gender Declaration approved in WRC-19. In the end of 2020, we launched the NOW4WRC23 programme and I am sure we will make further advancements in this meeting.

Dear colleagues,

We have important topics to be discussed. I value the advice of the RAG on all these topics and consider it as an essential input to ensure that our membership's requirements are satisfied.

I count on your contribution to provide advice to me and to the Bureau, and to support the work of the study groups.

In closing, I wish us all a very successful meeting.

Thank you very much.